

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE EFFICACY OF A

NEW MERCURIAL PREPARATION,

FOR THE CURE OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE,

IN ITS MOST MALIGNANT STATE;

And which IMMEDIATELY relieves the Heat of Urine in a recent Gonorrhœa, by which Means, a more easy and perfect Cure is obtained, than by the usual Method of Treatment.

WITH

An Explanation of the several Symptoms, of Venereal Infection,

BY HENRY WASTELL, SURGEON,
AND MEMBER OF THE CORPORATION OF SURGEONS, LONDON.

L O N D O N:

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TO THE

SURGEONS

HIS MAJESTY'S NAVY AND ARMY.

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN the obvious tendency of any work is, in its nature, salutary to mankind, the private object of the Author, in giving it to the public, is a consideration of little consequence.

Encouraged by that intimate knowledge of the excellent qualifications of many of those Gentlemen, whose patro-

patronage he has taken the liberty to solicit, which the honour of many years service amongst them, has enabled him to acquire, he is induced to dedicate to them the following Treatise, not doubting, that whatever tends to alleviate the sufferings, and restore the health of mankind, cannot fail to receive the protection and patronage, of so useful, so liberal, and so respectable a body, as the Surgeons of the Army and Navy.

The AUTHOR.

LONDON, FEB. 11, 1779.
MARGARET STREET, NEW PALACE
YARD, WESTMINSTER.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE are few complaints, to which the human frame is liable, that are more deserving of medical attention, than the venereal disease; and fewer still, perhaps, in which the improvements of medical researches have been less adequate to the importance of the object, in affording a safe, speedy, and efficacious cure for those persons, labouring under any stage of so contagious a malady.

To attain a perfect cure, even in an early period of this complaint, two, three, or even six months have sometimes been found necessary; during which time, the patient has unremittedly suffered the
most

most painful sensations ; although I am *now* convinced, that from a proper and judicious treatment, every species of the disorder may be cured in a much less time. The venereal gonorrhœa, for instance, in its *most virulent* state, may be effectually eradicated in *a few weeks* ; and when it is *recent*, may generally be cured in *ten or twelve* days.

Experience has fully proved, that the fatal consequences of the neglect, or improper treatment of a gonorrhœa, are excrescences, cicatrices, and strictures, with painful swellings in the urethra, causing obstructions of urine, and seminal emissions, which frequently terminate in a confirmed *lues* or *pox*.

Nor does the evil stop even there : upwards of thirty thousand persons are, by computation,

computation, supposed to be carried off every year in this island, by a consumption, which disorder is deemed endemial and peculiar to this country, and generally attributed to the instability and coldness of the climate, joined to its moisture; yet it is an uncontrovertible truth, that a considerable source of so dreadful a mortality originates from the various successive degrees of *venereal infection*. For we have too many instances, when the venereal poison has once infected the circulating fluids, that it attacks the glands of the viscera, whence a hectic disposition, nervous atrophy, and wasting of the flesh ensue, until at length the body is totally emaciated, when death closes the scene.

These are the fatal consequences of a GONORRHOEA, unless PERFECTLY and TIMELY CURED.

It is well known, that no method hitherto offered to the public, can, with certainty, remove that painful and disagreeable symptom in a *recent gonorrhœa*, viz. the *heat of urine*, until the original complaint is nearly subdued. The author, however, has fortunately, discovered a preparation, which *effectually*, and *without the least danger*, relieves that acute pain; and when it is combined with that active and subtle mercurial preparation, which *He* *has* ~~have~~ so particularly recommended in the following sheets, radically cures the disease. A discovery, which, he flatters himself, will not fail of becoming extensively useful, by not only co-operating in the prevention of the alarming consequences already mentioned, but also by procuring that IMMEDIATE EASE, which has been sought after for so many years, with so little effect.

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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

VENEREAL DISEASE.

SECTION I.

THE Venereal Disease is properly distinguished into local and universal.

In the former, the venereal virus is confined to some particular part of the body.

In the latter, the infection is carried into the blood, by means of the absorbent vessels, viz. the lymphatics, and circulating with it through every part of the body, mixes with the several secretions, and infects the whole habit.

As it is the former of these we shall first speak of, I think it not amiss to give a brief description of the parts most liable to be affected, whilst it remains local, to enable the reader (though not a medical man) to have a better idea of the subject. Being convinced that the successful treatment of local diseases, chiefly depends on

the knowledge of the particular structure and use of the parts affected.

This description is laid down in the most simple manner possible, every unnecessary technical term is carefully avoided, and the whole calculated to serve the lowest capacity, as well as those whose education has been more liberal. An attempt, which to the author's knowledge has not yet been made, though the extreme necessity of it, to those who would judge of the progress of the cure, is too manifest to need any comments to enhance its propriety.

SECTION II.

The Male Organs of Generation.

The testes or testicles are two glands appropriated to the secretion of the semen from the blood. They are suspended in a bag called the scrotum, into which they descend one or two months previous to the birth of the child.

The blood is carried to the testicles, by the two spermatic arteries which arise (most commonly) from the anterior part of the aorta, one on each side, a little below the
emulgents,

emulgents, and after the seminal secretion is performed, the blood returns back into the general mass, by the spermatic veins. That on the right side commonly enters the trunk of the vena cava, lying on the left side of the aorta; and that on the left side goes to the left emulgent vein, taking the same course, as the left spermatic artery.

The artery and vein on each side, in their course downwards, tend towards the groin, not in a direct course, but a little about, to avoid being interrupted by the motion of the intestines. There is a great variety in the manner they arise from the great vessels. They are connected to the fixed parts, by cellular membrane, and pass *under* the peritoneum, through the ring of the external oblique muscle into the groin, following nearly the sweep of the rim of the pelvis: just as they pierce the tendon of the oblique muscle, they join the vas deferens, and underneath the tendon, the spermatic vessels have other parts united with them, when the whole takes the name of the spermatic chord.

The spermatic chord consists of artery, vein, vas deferens, and cremaster muscle,
with

with nervous filaments and lymphatic vessels, and passes down by the superior projecting part of the os pubis, just over the interior end of Poupart's ligament, and enters the testicle at its posterior side, where it is connected with the tunica vaginalis.

The cremaster muscle is made of some of the fibres of the obliquus *internus*, that come from the spine of the ilium; it invests the whole spermatic chord, and goes with it through the ring to the testicles. This muscle assists in suspending the testicles in the scrotum, and spreads its fibres over the body of the gland, by its action it draws the testicles upwards, towards the pubes: the chord has also a thin fascia from the outer part of the tendon of the *external* oblique muscle. Old authors say there is a sheath proper to the chord and testicles, called by them, tunica vaginalis communis, but the spermatic chord has *no* vaginal coats, it is connected to the scrotum by cellular membrane *only*. But to the *testicle*, there belongs a bag, or coat, called tunica vaginalis propria; this bag is loose from the testicles every where, except on its posterior part, where it is connected with it
its

its whole length. In this bag the water of a hydrocele is lodged, and obscures the testicle, except at its back part, where it may be felt by the finger.

The tunica vaginalis, is originally peritonæum, as is evident in the foetus, where it is reflected over the testicle, and forms its outer coat called tunica albuginea, so that the water of a hydrocele can touch nothing but this membrane.

The scrotum may be considered as an elongation of the skin, and cellular membrane of the penis, as by inflating the one, we inflate the other; on its outside, it has a seam, or middle line, called the raphe, which is continued from the underside of the penis, and *internally*, this bag is divided by a partition, composed of a *firm* cellular membrane, called the septum scroti, being the duplicature of the internal cellular coat called dartos, which authors have described as a muscle, but without any reason, there being nothing like a muscular fibre to be seen in it.

The testicle is an oblong flattish body, one end is situated upwards and forwards, the other downward and backwards; and,
at

at its upper edge, has an appendix called epididymis.

The substance of the testicle is vascular, being chiefly formed from the convolutions of the spermatic artery, which here secretes the semen; it is inclosed in a strong tendinous coat or covering, called tunica albuginea, which is closely united with it, though a small force will separate them. It is owing to the great strength and compact texture of this membrane, that the intolerable pain of a bruised testicle arises: swellings and injured parts being more or less painful in proportion, as they are distended with more or less difficulty. Besides the spermatic artery and vein, which compose this glandular body, there are several lymphatic vessels, and branches of nerves, and the semen is secreted through a number of small curling threads, called vasa efferentia, or tubuli seminiferi, which make a surprising number of convolutions, and form the epididymis.

The epididymis which is situated on the posterior part of the testicle, and *outside* of the chord, is attached to the testicle by the vessels before mentioned, and likewise at
both

both its extremities, by the duplicature of the tunica albuginea, which having supplied the place of a ligament, afterwards invests it. The posterior extremity of the epididymis is incurvated from behind, and runs up to form an excretory duct called the vas deferens. The tubuli are the secretory vessels that carry the semen, and though we cannot trace them into the vas deferens, yet the vas deferens may be traced into those tubes.

The vas deferens is the canal or duct which conveys the semen from the testicle to the penis. It ascends with the spermatic vessels towards the abdomen, until it gets as high as the superior edge of the pubis, when it separates from these vessels, and passing down with the peritoneum, proceeds to the inferior part of the neck of the bladder, where it deposits the semen in the vesiculæ feminales. It is very thick externally without the abdomen, and may easily be distinguished in the spermatic chord by the finger. If quicksilver is poured into it, it descends to the lower end of the testicle, which shews that the epididymis is a continuation of this tube.

The

The *vesiculæ feminales* are two white substances resembling the circumvolutions of the intestines of a small bird: they are situated between the rectum and lower part of the bladder, and are supposed to serve as the reservoir of the semen, until it is wanted in the act of coition. There are two small tubes formed by the extremities of the *vasa deferentia* and *vesiculæ feminales*, which enter the canal of the urethra obliquely on each side. The *verumontanum*, or *caput gallinaginis*, which is a small oblong eminence, supposed to be like the head of a woodcock, seems to act as a sphincter to these two ducts. These tubes or ducts enter the urethra at the basis of the prostate gland, which resembles a small heart, and is situated close to the bladder, between it and the bulb of the urethra, having its basis towards the bladder, and the apex or point towards the urethra.

The penis is composed of *cellular* spongy substances, called the *corpora cavernosa penis*, and the *corpus spongiosum urethræ*.

The *corpora cavernosa*, which constitute
the

the greatest part of the penis, form nearly two cylindrical tubes, the cavity of which is entirely filled up by a strong cavernous substance, the cells of which communicate with each other. They lie close together for the greatest part of their length; but behind they separate under the pubis, and are fixed, one on each side, to the inferior part of the os pubis, making what is called the crura penis: at their extremity they terminate in a point, where they are covered by the glans penis. The partition betwixt each tube is called the pecten, and for near two thirds of its length, nearest the glans, it is perforated into interstices like a comb, through which these cavernous bodies communicate; but in the other third part there are no *perceptible* interstices or perforations. Being united laterally to each other for the greatest part of their length, two grōves are formed, one on the upper, the other on the under side.

In the inferior grōve, the corpus spongiosum urethræ lies, which goes down to the perinæum, and forms the bulb of the urethra; it terminates forward in a considerable expansion, constituting what is cal-

led the glans penis, which is entirely a continuation of this spongy substance. The cells of the corpus spongiosum urethræ do not appear to be similar to the cells in bone and other parts, but seem to be made up of plexuses of veins.

The canal by which both the urine and seed is conveyed, is called the urethra; it runs through the corpus spongiosum from the bladder, and terminates at the extremity of the glans by a narrow oblong orifice. The cavity of this canal begins on the side of the bulb of the urethra, is about the size of a goose quill, and is larger when the penis is flacid and relaxed, than when it is erect; which accounts for the difficulty of making water when the penis is in an erect state. Just within the glans the sides of this canal are depressed; which depression is called fossa navicularis. The inside of the urethra is lined with a fine delicate membrane of exquisite sensibility, which is perforated by a great number of oblong holes called lacunæ. These are the orifices of the excretories of several small glands dispersed thro' the substance of the urethra; they secrete a glairy fluid, which,

with

with a fluid that comes from the prostate and Cowper's glands, serves to defend this inner membrane from the stimulus of the urine. Two of these lacunæ (which are described by Morgagni) are more considerable than the rest, and are situated near the glans penis, the one under the frænum, and the other near the fossa navicularis: there are other two near the bulb of the urethra, which are the openings of the excretory ducts from two glands called Cowper's glands: these glands are situated under the membranous part of the urethra within the bulb, one on each side. The before-mentioned membrane is continued over the glans.

The muscles of the penis are the erectores, acceleratores, and transversales. The erectores penis arise near to the tuberosity of the ischium, and run forwards and upwards, and terminate in the corpora cavernosa. The acceleratores urinæ come down obliquely backwards from the crura penis on each side, and cover the bulb of the urethra, making, where they meet, a tendinous line along the middle of the bulb. The transversales perinæi arise from the
inside

inside of the tuberosity of the ischium, and go down to the perinæum.

The perinæum is the space between the under part of the penis and scrotum, and the anterior edge of the anus.

The principal arteries are called pudicæ, of which one is external, and the other internal. The external branches of the crural arteries, are distributed to the integuments of the penis; the internal pudicæ, which are branches of the iliac or hypogastric arteries, run through the center of each corpus cavernosum. But the course of circulation is different here from most parts of the body, as the blood does not pass from the extreme arteries *immediately* into continuous veins, but is poured out into an intermediate cellular texture, from which it is afterwards received by the extreme veins, and is returned by a large vein on the upper part of the penis, which runs in a kind of groove formed by the corpora cavernosa, and is called vena magna, or vena ipsius penis.

On the outside of each artery is a nerve distributing its branches to different parts.

There are a great many lymphatic vessels
running

running in all directions, which generally accompany the large blood vessels. Their coats have arteries and veins for their nourishment, and are endowed with great sensibility, as appears from the painful swellings to which they are subject. They therefore have nerves, as well as arteries and veins.

The lymphatic vessels have a great number of valves, and convey the lymph to the glands in the groin, where they enter on one side, and come out at the other, in their way to the thoracic duct.

The glands of the groin may be considered as appendages to these lymphatic vessels; and being liable to be affected in a gonorrhœa, from the discharge being prematurely suppressed, or from improper treatment of this complaint, it seems necessary to take notice of their situation and structure.

A lymphatic gland resembles a kidney bean, though in different bodies, and in different parts of the same body, a great variety in their size and figure is observed. Each gland is a congeries of tubes, consisting of arteries, veins, lymphatic vessels, and

and nerves, connected by the cellular substance.

The lymphatic glands of the groin are six, seven, or eight in number: of these some lie in the very angle between the thigh and abdomen; and others lie a few inches down on the fore part of the thigh. It is into these UPPER glands ALONE, that the lymphatic vessels of the genitals enter; so that the *venereal* bubo, which arises in consequence of an absorption of matter from these organs, is always seated in those UPPER glands; and the lower glands are never affected, except by the regurgitation of the matter, which very seldom happens, or from their vicinity to the glands first diseased.

As it is the *upper* glands that are affected by absorption of matter from the genitals, so it is the *lower* which are commonly first affected by the acrid matter of an ulcer, diseased joint, or carious bone, in the parts *below* those glands: a circumstance that may assist us in the diagnosis of those two kinds of buboes; remembering, that this rule *may* be liable to an exception from one of the lymphatic vessels *passing* the
lower

lower glands, and only entering the upper. And sometimes a lymphatic vessel will pass by *all* the glands without entering one of them, and continue on to the thoracic duct.

This observation may account for the venereal poison being *sometimes* taken into the habit, *without occasioning a bubo*, by inflaming a lymphatic gland in its passage.

The integuments of the penis are the same as in other parts of the body. It has cellular membrane, which is here very tough, so as to have been called by some a tendinous sheath. Where the penis is connected to the fore part of the symphysis of the pubis, the cellular membrane is particularly strong, and has been called ligamentum suspensorium; but it is not properly a ligament, and seems to be only common membranous connection. Near the glans penis this membrane is *reticular*, *not cellular*.

The cuticle, skin and rete mucosum are very thin on the penis, and have seldom if ever any fat under them, even in the fattest bodies. These parts are supplied with many small branches of nerves. The præpuce,

puce, which covers or incloses the glans, is nothing more than a fold of skin, and the skin reflected over the glans makes its coat. Underneath it makes a tight band, called the frænum, which is fixed to the under side of the glans, and draws it down in erection. The frænum is sometimes originally too tight; in that case, it may be divided by incision.

Near the basis of the glans penis is a circular border, called corona glandis: round the basis are a number of small glands, which secrete a fluid or mucus, that is of a fishy smell when it has been retained for any time under the præpuce. There is a little hole on each side, that appears (by the help of a magnifier) to be the source of this fluid.

Here it may not be improper to recommend frequent washing and bathing of the parts, as this fluid, by being retained, becomes acrimonious, and a discharge like a clap ensues: and it is very probable, that many cutaneous diseases originate from want of cleanliness, by which the pores of the skin are obstructed.

The same kind of mucus is secreted from
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the glans clytoridis in women, as from the glans penis in men ; and women are more frequently troubled with this complaint than men. It causes an itching all over the skin of those parts, and mostly proceeds from internal uncleanness. The warm bath, or frequent washing the parts affected, generally relieves ; if not, a proper use of the aqua saturnina camphorata will seldom fail to accomplish that end.

S E C T I O N III.

The gonorrhœa, speaking in general, is a preternatural discharge from the urethra ; and when it is *not* the effect of venereal poison, it is occasioned either by sharp juices in the constitution, or sometimes it is quite local.

Some have thought that the discharge flowed from the lacunæ ; others from the prostate gland ; and others from the vesiculæ seminales. It is evident, however, that the clap affects not only one, but every part of the urethra ; that is, though at first it may affect only one particular part, it spreads from one to another, if not timely subdued, until it affects the whole canal.

It is observed, that the venereal poison affects only those parts that are without a cuticle, or where it is very thin; which is the reason why we find the urethra so commonly affected, and not the skin of the penis: or if there is any crack in the cuticle, or little sore about the penis, a chancre is the consequence of the application of the venereal poison to that part, though there may be a discharge from the urethra notwithstanding.

The morbid matter which produces the venereal disease, from its effects, appears to be of a specific nature, and different from any other infectious matter with which we are acquainted.

The *specific* nature of the venereal poison has been the subject of many fruitless enquiries, and is perhaps unknown. We are told by one * of the most eminent chymists perhaps in Europe, that it is too subtile for chymical analysis, and therefore can only be discovered by its effects.

“ It is observed, that its operation upon the human body differs according to the

* Dr. Saunders, Prof. Chym. and Physician to Guy's Hospital.

parts which are primarily affected, the manner in which it has been communicated, and perhaps according to the degree of virulence in the original infection, as also the habit of body of the person who receives it. In some it unites more readily with the fluids, and produces its effects on the different secretions; in others, it attacks the more solid bones, and insinuates itself into their very substance. In some it causes the most excruciating pains; in others, the most virulent and sanious ulcers: in many it lies in the constitution dormant and inactive, ready to break out in various forms, and with much violence, from some occasional cause."*

From the effects it produces in the constitution, it seems reasonable to conclude, that it is of a peculiar *acrid* nature, and it probably becomes more or less acrimonious, according to the different temperament of the patient. The most virulent infection in some constitutions, produces a gentle disease, whilst, in others, the slightest infection gives rise to the most violent and obstinate symptoms. As this difference

* Dr. Saunders.

may arise from the patient's blood being tainted with a scorbutic or scrophulous leaven, is it not reasonable to suppose the different degrees of malignity in a great measure depends on the constitution of the party receiving the infection ?

It has been a matter undetermined, in what manner the infection is communicated, when taken by coition : it seems most probable, that the venereal poison is imbibed by the lymphatic vessels of the glans penis, whose orifices, in consequence of a particular organization, are disposed to absorb the infected matter. The late ingenious Mr. Hewson, in his experimental enquiries, observes, that those parts of the skin which are intended to have more sensibility than the rest, have those processes called villi most remarkable. This is evident from a minute injection, when we compare the lips, *glans penis*, and other parts ; and whenever absorption is performed, the blood vessels become turgid, and the orifices of the villi stand rigidly open ; so that those parts being more liable to be infected than others, seems ^{not so} much to depend on the thinness of the cuticle,

as to their being more disposed to absorption, from having more of these processes called villi. The great Boerhaave was of opinion, that the *time* of imbibing the infection, is when the penis begins to subside from its turgid state in the venereal paroxysm.

The discharge which appears soon after taking the infection, is owing to the stimulus of the venereal poison, which, by irritating the orifices of the excretory ducts, causes a greater secretion of mucus from the subjacent glands. Thus it is observed, that when any sharp acrid matter irritates the stomach and intestines, immediately the glands in those parts emit a lubricating fluid to blunt the irritating spiculæ. It must therefore be considered *only* as an effusion of lymph secreted from the different glands, which acquires a more viscid consistence, and becomes of a more acrid nature, from the inflammatory state of the secretory and excretory vessels, and appears *like* pus or matter.

The quantity of the discharge is different in different people, and in the same person at different times, owing to the different

ferent

ferent state of the parts affected, as well as the degree of stimulus that is applied.

The variety in the colour of the discharge, seems also to depend on the different state of the secretory and excretory vessels, which appear to possess a power of changing the lymph from its natural state, into a fluid like pus or matter; and therefore, according to the *kind* and *degree* of inflammation, the discharge may vary, as in weak relaxed habits, the fluid may be of a mild nature; so in inflammatory cases, where the vessels act strongly, the discharge, in consequence of that strong action, may acquire a more sanious appearance. It has been supposed by some, that this variety of colour is owing to the adventitious mixture of blood or pus, from the venereal virus corroding some capillary blood vessel. But Mr. Percival Pott observes, that inflammation and irritation of the membranous linings of the urethra and vagina, will fully account for *all* the *appearances* in this disease, when there is neither ULCER, or ABSCESS.

The same eminent surgeon also observes,

“ That

“ That in case of strictures in the male urethra, the discharge occasioned by a bougie, *properly* and *judiciously* used, is a discoloured *mucus*, and not *matter*, though it is generally so called by Daran and others. It is from the discharge of this mucus, and the dilatation of the passage, that the relief is obtained, and *not* from any destruction or division of the parts. The bougie which produces TRUE MATTER, does much more harm than good, and makes a sore where there was none, and where there ought to be none.

The inflammation may be of two kinds, erysipelatous, or phlegmonic ; but we have reason to suppose, that it is generally the former, or that kind of erysipelas distinguished by the name of erythema, where the vessels on the surface of the membrane in the urethra, communicating with the rete mucosum, are affected. We are of this opinion, because, though the inflammation may affect only one particular part, the morbid affection is quickly communicated to the whole extent of the urethra ; and the erysipelatous inflammation is often disposed to spread from one place to another

ther on the same surface, and in so doing, to leave the place it had at first occupied.

That kind of sensation, which is felt as if the penis was compressed by the hand, seems to be owing to the lymphatic vessels being inflamed, which are very susceptible of pain in that state, and are affected by the distension of the adjoining blood vessels, and the cellular spongy parts of the penis.

The frequent erections during this complaint are generally involuntary and spasmodic, and are effected by the venereal stimulus, as we observe a similar effect is produced in people advanced in years, and also in young children, in a morning, from the stimulus of the urine. Ballonius has given a very useful hint from this phenomenon, viz. "Let him who is not very potent in his generative faculties," says he, "perform copulation, after much titillation, with his *urine retained*, and having a great desire to discharge it."

The chordee arising from venereal infection is of two kinds: the first, which is the most common, happens in consequence of the vessels of the cavernous body of the urethra being inflamed; so that the
penis

penis in erection is drawn down in a curve. The second, is, when the penis seems to be tied round with a cord, which is owing to a lymphatic vessel being inflamed, which runs in that direction.

In a *recent* gonorrhœa, the scalding or heat of urine is occasioned by the internal membrane of the urethra being inflamed or excoriated, and the mucus, which is destined to lubricate and defend this membrane, from the saline particles of the urine, instead of being a mild emollient fluid, is vitiated and depraved, and becomes of a thin acrid nature. This lubricating fluid is sometimes deficient also in quantity, from some of the larger canals being obliterated, in consequence of inflammation, so that the tender membrane is left without its proper defence, and the urine, as it passes, irritates and causes pain.

This symptom may also arise without any venereal disorder, and sometimes happens from the great acrimony of the urine, owing to its being too long retained in the bladder, or not properly secreted, from a mal-conformation of the ureters and kidneys.

The late celebrated Baron Haller observes, that the genital organs are both *sensible* and *irritable*, and are endowed with an irritability, *peculiar* to themselves. And that as irritability depends on the mucus, the different degrees of irritability are proportioned to the different consistence of the mucus.

S E C T I O N IV.

Symptoms of a recent Venereal Infection.

It is obvious to common sense, that in order to perform an effectual cure in venereal complaints, it is necessary to know, whether the disorder is local, and in a recent state, or whether there is reason to apprehend that the infection is absorbed, and the whole habit infected. We have too many instances, where the disorder has been treated with medicines that have not an antivenereal quality, whereby an illusory cure was obtained, and though the *symptoms* were suppressed, the *cause* was not eradicated, but reappeared upon exercise, freer living, or venereal embraces.

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When a person has had connections with a woman, if he has received any venereal infection, a discharge from the penis is observed, which leaves a stain upon the linen, like a drop of milk; and if it is attentively examined, a small spot of a yellow or green colour, and of a thicker consistence, is perceived in the middle of it. It *commonly* makes its appearance in two, three or four days after the infection has been received, if the patient has taken any severe exercise, particularly on horseback, or has been living intemperately. If he is of a healthy habit of body, and has lived temperately, it is frequently longer before any symptoms arise, to indicate that he has got the infection. Sometimes previous to any discharge, there is a kind of tickling sensation perceived on making water, in or near the testicles, which is frequently attended with a heat or scalding, called *ardor urinæ*, especially when the last drops of urine come away. At other times, before any discharge is perceived, the orifice of the urethra looks red and inflamed; and if the patient uses much exercise, a soreness is felt on that part, by
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the rubbing of the shirt, should the glans be uncovered.

When the above symptoms appear a few days after having connections with a woman, the person ought to apply for proper relief, as he may be well assured he is infected, particularly, if a scalding accompanies the discharge.

When the running comes on *a few hours* after a connection of this kind, with *no heat* or smarting on making water, and is a clear pellucid fluid, it is mostly a gleet; but should it be *discoloured*, and attended *with heat of urine*, it is most probably an old infection, that has been prematurely stopped.

Sometimes (though not often) in a *recent* infection, a discharge is perceived behind the glans or nut, and from the internal part of the præpuce or foreskin, *without* any discharge from the urethra, this symptom is generally occasioned by a former infection, except it is in consequence of uncleanness, and then it is *not* venereal. These are the common symptoms of the mildest species of gonorrhœa, which by the use of proper remedies, may be cured

cured in a few days—hence appears the advantage of applying early for relief.

When proper methods of treatment are not pursued, as the disorder advances, the venereal virus acquires a greater degree of acrimony, the inflammation becomes more general, and frequently affects the parts near the neck of the bladder, a more copious discharge from the urethra ensues, which is of a thicker consistence, and of a yellow, green, or bloody colour; often a throbbing and heat in the perinæum is perceived, with a frequent desire to make water, and often a strangury; the erections are more frequent and painful, and the penis is in a manner incurvated, or bent double, particularly when the patient is warm in bed. This pain, in erection, is called a chordee. When these last symptoms appear, it is presumed that the feminal vessels, prostate gland, and the parts adjacent to the bladder, are affected, which require a more judicious treatment than is generally met with in this metropolis. Under these circumstances, should the discharge be suppressed, before the venereal poison is entirely subdued, a bubo, or swelled

led testicle will most probably be the consequence.

A bubo seldom appears *soon* after the infection is received, but in consequence of neglect, mismanagement in the treatment, or from some error committed by the patient himself. When this swelling in the groin happens in a *recent* gonorrhœa, a slight pain and stiffness is felt in the part, a day or two before the tumor or swelling is perceived ; and in plethoric habits the gland is painful and the part looks inflamed. But, if it arises in consequence of the mass of fluids being infected, there is seldom any stiffness or pain perceived at first, nor any remarkable heat, tension, or pulsation, in the part affected, but the tumor has a soft œdematous feel, and there is no discolouration of the skin. Therefore, in a bubo which is owing to a recent infection, the venereal poison, which occasions the tumor, is conveyed by the lymphatics of the penis to the inguinal glands, where most commonly it remains for some time, and it is attended with less danger to the constitution, than when it arises without any *manifest* cause, as it then proceeds from a venereal taint in the constitution.

It has been generally supposed, as the lymphatic vessels of the penis pass through the inguinal glands in their way to the thoracic duct, and as the venereal infection is carried into the habit by these vessels, that previous to the venereal virus being taken into the general mass of fluids and producing a pox, the lymphatic glands in the groin should *always* be infected, and consequently inflamed, and occasion a bubo, putting the practitioner timely on his guard to pursue such methods as may be most likely to prevent the habit from receiving any venereal taint. But since the lymphatic system has been so minutely traced by dissection, and accurately described by my late worthy friend Mr. Hewson, we find that the lymphatic vessels do not *always pass through the glands*; it may therefore happen that the venereal poison may, upon being absorbed, pass into the circulating mass of fluids, by one of the lateral branches, *without entering a lymphatic gland*, or inflaming it. That this is probable will evidently appear by examining the third plate in Mr. Hewson's experimental enquiries, of the lymphatic system,

system, where the mercury (in making the preparation) appears to have passed from the groin, the whole length of the trunk of the body, without entering a lymphatic gland. From which fact may be understood how the venereal poison *sometimes* enters the habit, and produces a pox, without occasioning a bubo. Instances of which every careful observer must have remarked.

The variolous matter introduced by inoculation, although it *frequently* produces inflammation and swelling of the glands in the axilla, or arm pit, yet is not *always* attended with those symptoms. Another reason why these poisons do not *constantly* affect the lymphatic glands in their way into the body, may be the diminished sensibility of these glands, in some particular cases : whence the same poison which *at one time* would have produced the worst effects, may at another pass through these glands without inflaming them.

The lymphatic vessels conveying the poison which inflames them, may be traced particularly when the infection is received by the hand, as sometimes it happens,

pens in dissecting dead bodies infected with the venereal disease, if there be any cut or crack in the cuticle. A small red streak may be observed, which is the inflamed lymphatic vessel running along the fore arm, disappearing at the bend of the joint, and appearing above passing into the axillary gland under the arm, where a bubo is formed.

Most elegant preparations of the lymphatic vessels, made by Mr. Cruikshanks, are shewn at Dr. Hunter's anatomical lectures.

Cancerous ulcers, commonly called chancres, may happen either with or without a discharge from the urethra; and though they are sometimes merely local, in consequence of the venereal poison having been deposited on the glans, yet they are more frequently symptoms of a general taint.

When they appear soon after the infection is received, they are commonly near the orifice of the urethra, or on the glans, often affecting the frænum, and sometimes underneath the præpuce. In this situation, they are attended with great pain and in-

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inflammation, and frequently occasion a phymosis.

But when they arise in consequence of an infected habit, they are not so painful, and are generally accompanied with some other symptom of a confirmed pox, such as ulcers in the throat, nocturnal pains, scurfy eruptions about the roots of the hair, and eruptions in other parts of the body, which commonly are sufficient symptoms to distinguish them by. But by attending to the nature of the discharge, for a few days, the difference is obvious. In the latter case, it is more sanious and acrid; so much so, that it destroys the part, and is not so easily checked by topical applications; whereas in chancres arising from *recent* infection, the discharge is not of so acrid a nature, though the pain and inflammation is greater.

The phymosis is such a constriction of the præpuce or foreskin *over* the glans, as prevents it from being drawn backwards.

The paraphymosis is such a constriction *behind* the glans, as hinders it from being drawn *forwards*.

These symptoms are not *always* the effect-

fect of a venereal cause, though, in general, they are occasioned by chancres, or a defluxion excited by the acrimony of the venereal poison.

Therefore, when we find that local symptoms, such as chancres, bubos, &c. though owing at first to recent infection, do not give way to the usual treatment, or break out again, after having been apparently cured, without a fresh infection, we may with great probability conclude, that the venereal poison has gained admission into the blood, and tainted the general mass of fluids. But if, at the same time, we find ulcers in the throat, dry scabby eruptions on the skin, or appearing amongst the hair, we may be assured, that it is a confirmed lues or pox. Other sure signs are those deep seated pains, which are felt chiefly in the night, on the shin bones, arms, head, and sometimes on the shoulder blades; also those hard indolent swellings, as nodes in the periosteum, and exostosis upon the bones, which, when they are painful, may be supposed to proceed from a venereal cause.

These are the most *manifest* signs of a confirmed

confirmed lues; there are others, which are merely equivocal, and except they are attended with other symptoms, cannot be deemed *certain* signs of the venereal disease, such as violent inflammations of the eyes, obstinate headaches, wandering and obstinate pains in different parts of the body; none of which can be known to be venereal, except they coincide with some or other of the more certain signs.

It ought therefore to be remembered, that a confirmed pox, however slight the symptoms may be, which give the first notice of it, is a very serious disorder; since if it is improperly treated, or neglected in the beginning, it hardly ever fails, sooner or later, to introduce a train of symptoms, which not only render the patient miserable to himself, but, under some circumstances, a nuisance to society.

SECTION V.

On the Cure of the RECENT GONORRHOEA.

From what has been said concerning the *nature* and *effects* of a virulent gonorrhœa, it plainly appears to be the consequence of a preternatural irritation in some one, and sometimes in all the parts, which have been shewn to be the seat of the disorder. Now since this irritation is undoubtedly produced by the stimulus of the venereal virus, the plain, and obvious indication of cure, must be, to remove the irritating cause; that is, to subdue and destroy the venereal poison, by such methods as are most likely to answer this purpose.

To enumerate the several ancient authors who have writen on this subject, would be an arduous and endless task; and to mention the several methods they proposed for the cure of a *recent gonorrhœa*, would be productive of no useful purpose.

Let us then enquire into the general practice of authors of a more modern date.

date. We are told in a late publication, that the generality of authors are agreed, that purging is the remedy for the gonorrhœa, as is salivation for a confirmed pox; and for the scalding in making water, (called ardor urinæ) that bleeding is the sovereign remedy.

A most eminent surgeon * has made the following just observation, “ That the *merely curing* diseases, is not all that is required; that was done, sooner or *later*, while surgery and anatomy were in their most imperfect state, and while every branch of medicine laboured under many inconveniences, which are now happily removed; but the *different* methods, in which chirurgical disorders are *treated*, or their cures attempted, will make so considerable a difference in the *confinement* and *sufferings* of the patient, as to be very well worth attending to.”

In plethoric habits, if the inflammation be *very great*, bleeding and gentle purgatives may *sometimes* be necessary, as auxiliaries, we allow; but they become useful,

* Mr. Percival Pott.

more on account of the bad habit of body occasioned, too frequently, by various kinds of excess, than from the nature of the disease itself. When the pain is become great, from whatever cause, there will be an extraordinary flow of blood and humours to the vessels in the parts affected, which, by distending the canals, and cellular substance, will increase the inflammation: therefore, diminishing the quantity of circulating fluids, removes the plethora, or too great fulness of the vessels, diminishes the tone of the moving fibres, and tends to prevent the occurrence of a topical determination of the blood, to the part affected: but where the constitution is debilitated, or scorbutic, or the patient advanced in years, these evacuations are not required: therefore, though bleeding and purgatives may *sometimes* be necessary, they are undoubtedly often employed without the least shadow of necessity. When the general habit is disordered, it will often make a very material difference in the treatment of venereal complaints.

As to strong drastic purges daily repeated, though they have the sanction of those
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illustrious names, Boerhaave and Sydenham, to recommend them ; yet it is *now* well known, from the immoderate and unseasonable use of strong purgatives, that they frequently act a contrary part, and, instead of *curing* the disease, assist it to overcome the constitution. For it is very obvious, from the degeneracy of the constitutional vigour of mankind; that the present race are less able than our ancestors, to bear the repeated operations of bleeding and purging. And it will hardly be denied, that obstinate gleans as frequently are the effects of strong purges, as they are easily and certainly prevented, by the use of tonic medicines ; such as Peruvian bark, steel, &c. &c. where the venereal virus has been *previously* subdued.

Others have been equally unsuccessful in their method of treating venereal cases, from attempting to discover the *nature* of the morbid fluid. Astruc says, it is of an inflammatory, coagulating, fixed, and probably of an acid, or falso-acid nature. Cockburne endeavours to prove an acid, by chymical experiments ; others have declared

clared this poison to partake of a volatile alkali.

All this is systematical, and does very well to read, but if the physician, or surgeon, should set about the cure of his patient, by ordering acids, or alkalies, or absorbents, or such things as he imagines will conquer the predominant species of acrimony, he will prescribe to very little purpose.

We know that the venereal disease arises from some peculiar subtle matter, which we find, by *experience*, produces its particular symptoms ; but the *quality* of this poison, we cannot possibly describe, nor determine ; therefore, let us be under no concern, whether we know, or do not know, what its particular *qualities* are, provided we can tell, when it is present, what things will correct or subdue it. Fortunately, experience has furnished us with medicines that scarcely ever fail, if applied in time, and prepared with care and attention.

Upon the whole, we apprehend, that the frequent ill success, in curing the *recent* gonorrhœa, has been occasioned by attending chiefly to the *general* inflammatory
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state of the system, and neglecting the *local* or *venereal* inflammation, by which means the venereal poison is absorbed into the habit, and the gonorrhœa often terminates in a confirmed lues; or from the notion, that the discharge proceeded from ulcers in the urethra, improper modes of cure has been adopted by different people, with a view of deterging, incarning, and cicatrizing these imaginary ulcerations of the parts.

We observe, in regard to the absorption of acrid matter, that frequently it is not *immediately* absorbed, but remains for some time in a wound, before it enters the vascular system: which fact is evident on introducing the variolous matter by inoculation; also in the poisonous bite of mad animals; which poisons are observed to remain inactive, until a topical inflammation arises on the place of their insertion. May we not therefore conclude, that it is more owing to the *inactivity* of the poison, than the efficacy of any medicine hitherto known, that so few persons die from the effects of the bite of a mad animal; and it is too true, that the
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only method to be depended on, is to render the poison inactive, by *immediately* burning the part, or, what is certainly preferable, to extirpate the poison before absorption has taken place.

Therefore, in a RECENT gonorrhœa, it cannot be too strongly recommended, to destroy, or render inactive, the venereal virus, by suitable topical applications, as soon as possible; since it seems to be the most rational and efficacious method of preventing the future ill consequences of such an injury, and preserving the constitution from the infection.

In a late publication on this subject, a gentleman* of eminence in the profession, gives the following satisfactory reasons, why the method of curing this disorder by injection, has not been more universally practised.

First, “The patient’s fear of not obtaining a perfect cure without the purging method.”

Secondly, “Because many people used injections *improperly*, in cases for which

* Dr. Leake.

they never were calculated; or directed such as were *pernicious in quality*, to the great injury of the patient. But this was not at all the fault of the remedy, but of those who wanted skill to apply it. Hence, by abuse, injections were brought into discredit, which was no more than what had happened to the most valuable medicines ages ago. Has not the use of Peruvian bark, mercury, and opium, been decried, as destructive to the constitution; yet how much would the power of physic be weakened, were those salutary medicines taken away?"

Dr. Duncan, in his observations on the operation and use of mercury in the venereal disease, observes, "That mercury, when properly administered, is a certain antidote to the venereal virus; and that in whatever way it be introduced into the system, it must come in *contact* with the venereal poison in those parts in which it is lodged, *previous* to its producing a cure." And therefore he concludes, that mercury cures the venereal disease, from its power, as an antidote, in consequence of its being *topically applied to the venereal matter*.

He also observes, "That when the mat-
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ter occasioning the infection, is still in a state of topical application *only*, as happens in the case of a gonorrhœa, the introduction of mercury into the system is *totally unnecessary*; and a cure may be effected by other means, not only with greater ease and safety, but likewise with more expedition.

Dr. Saunders, in his supplement to Mr. Plenck's treatise on mercury, speaking of the cure of the venereal gonorrhœa, says, "It must be allowed, that there are many local affections, independent of any disease in the habit, which can only be cured by *external applications* to the diseased parts; and as the *neglect* of *topical applications* in such cases, has been productive of infinite mischief, by conveying fresh infection into the constitution, an early and a judicious use of *external applications* to a part *recently* and *primarily* affected, while an attention is still paid to the general habit, often lessens the quantity of infection introduced." Besides, that mercury *topically applied* subdues or renders inactive the venereal poison, appears clearly, not only in those ulcers to which dressings can be applied, but
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in others more out of reach, where its application can only be temporary. The advantages obtained in some cases, by applying mercury to venereal ulcers in the mouth and throat, whether in the form of vapour or gargle, sufficiently shew the truth of this assertion : So that the cure produced by these methods, is unquestionably to be referred to an immediate action upon the part." Therefore, that injections may with propriety be used, none will deny, except such as have wanted opportunities of observing their good effects; since repeated experience, which is the most certain test of propriety in medical practice, has clearly shewn, that when they are suited in *strength* and *quality*, to the *nature* of the infection, the *time* of its duration, and the *tenderness of the part* to which they are applied, they afford the most rational means of curing a *fresh venereal contraction*.

Hinc medicamenta externa in hoc morbo primis profutura cencendum est, materiam morbosam efficacius corrigere et mutare valeant, quam remedia interna vulgo adhibita, quæ per longas vasorum ambages, debilitata ad loca adfecta tandem feruntur.

MONRO on the *Lymphatics*.

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Notwithstanding what has been said of the advantages obtained from *proper* injections, it is of the highest importance to *avoid*, or at least use *with great caution*, those of an astringent nature. I believe I am not singular in my opinion, when I assert, that more poxes are occasioned by the improper and unseasonable use or abuse of astringent injections and balsamic medicines, than from any other cause. And it seems most probable, that the frequent disorders in the urethra are generally from an injudicious treatment, by astringent injections.

Dr. Storck, in his *Annus Medicus*, justly observes, in the venereal disease :

“ *Essentiæ, tincturæ, et remedia balsamica*
 “ *ac adstringentia hic raro profuerunt. In-*
 “ *jectiones adstringentes, consolidantes et*
 “ *præsertim saturninæ summa cum Cau-*
 “ *tela evitanda sunt, hæ enim pessima*
 “ *symptomata producunt. Etenim testiculi*
 “ *inde sæpius intument, fiunt schirrosi ;*
 “ *oriuntur bubones inguinales. Vidi a*
 “ *gonorrhœa, hac ratione suppressa, exul-*
 “ *ceratum esse umbilicum, et eandem ibi*
 “ *prodiisse materiam, quæ antea per ure-*
 “ *thram exstillavit.*”

The fatal consequences that will inevitably ensue from the use of astringent injections before the venereal virus is entirely subdued, must be obvious. If at any time they *are* required, it is for a tedious gleet, occasioned by neglect or improper treatment at the beginning of the disorder; and even then, they should be of the mildest kind: but by using injections on the first appearance of the discharge in a virulent gonorrhœa, which do not possess any antivenereal quality, an apparent cure is frequently only obtained; for though the running may disappear, yet the cause is not entirely eradicated, and a reflux of the infected fluids into the blood is occasioned.

Another objection has been made to the use of injections, that when the disorder seems to be seated in some of the parts adjacent to the bladder, there appears no possibility of conveying the preparation to the parts affected. With the *common* syringe, indeed, it seldom can be thrown up high enough, to produce any salutary effect; but by using the hollow flexible bougie, with an elastic syringe, it
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may be done with the greatest ease and safety.

Therefore if the mode of treatment, by injections, has not *always* been attended with good effects, our censure ought to fall, *not* on the method itself, but on the misapplication of it, by injudicious people.

The cure of a *recent gonorrhœa*, or fresh contracted infection, is very easily accomplished in a few days, without bleeding or purging; and provided the patient is in good health, the use of medicines internally is not necessary.

But when the disorder has been of a *longer continuance*, and the patient is of a bad habit of body, it will often make a material difference in the method of treatment, as well as in the time required to accomplish a radical cure.

It is therefore always necessary to make proper enquiry, in regard to the time when the infection was taken, and also to be informed, of the *particular parts* which are affected, being convinced, that injections have frequently failed, for want of this previous knowledge. For so long as the disorder affects *only* the penis, *proper injections*,

tions, *judiciously* applied, will always subdue the venereal poison, and produce a radical cure, *in less time, with equal certainty, and less trouble to the patient*, than it is possible to do by any other means, *without* them.

Therefore, when the disease is *recent*, and attended with no pain, or smarting, near the *root of the penis*, we may conclude the infection has not extended far, and has only excoriated the *lacunæ* near the glans; in this case, a *proper* injection with a common syringe will be sufficient to effect a cure; but where there is great pain or throbbing in the perinæum, with considerable smarting after making water, near the bladder, and frequent calls to discharge the urine, we may suspect the prostate and Cowpers glands, and the parts adjacent to the bladder, are affected; therefore a radical cure cannot be expected by injecting with the *common* syringe, as it is out of the reach of preparations injected by them. Under these circumstances, the introduction of mercury into the system, either by inunction, or given internally, is generally proper, as the infection *may* have got into the habit, without affecting the inguinal glands.

glands. Should there be any considerable degree of defluxion, or should the inflammation have affected the feminal vessels, or prostate gland, if it is not quickly removed, a tedious gleet frequently ensues from the erosion or relaxation of the excretory ducts of these parts; in these cases, should any astringent injection be used, or the discharge be stopped by any other means, *before* the venereal virus is subdued, a bubo, swelled testicle, or abscess in perinæo, generally are the consequences, which frequently terminate in a pox; therefore, the sooner the inflammation is removed from the parts affected, the less injury they are likely to sustain, and there will be less danger of the venereal poison being carried into the general mass of fluids.

As the ardor urinæ, or scalding in making water, is one of the most distressing symptoms in a *recent* gonorrhœa, and whilst it is violent, from the tenderness of the parts affected, surgeons have been hitherto prevented from using mercury, by way of injection, as it has generally been supposed to encrease the inflammation; it is therefore obvious, that the immediate
removal

removal of the heat of urine, must be attended with material benefit, in expediting the cure, as well as relieving the patient of his sufferings, by permitting the liberal and *immediate* use of mercurial injections, without giving the least pain.

To accomplish this purpose, the *usual method* of treatment, is to dilute with large quantities of small liquors, wherein nitre has been dissolved, or emollient drinks, such as lintseed tea, barley water, with gum arabic and such like: at the same time soaking the parts in warm milk and water, throwing up emollient injections, with sometimes an opiate joined to them; and where feverish symptoms accompany the heat of urine, to bleed plentifully, and give frequent purges.

It is well known to every patient who has had a *severe scalding*, that none of these methods will remove this symptom, until they have been pursued many days, nay, sometimes weeks, and in some cases, the ardor urinæ has continued during the whole time of cure. When the feverish symptoms are high, bleeding, with an antiphlogistic regimen, is certainly required; but
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it becomes necessary, more on account of the *general* inflammatory state of the patient, than to remove this *particular local* affection.

As for nitre and diuretics in general, with *large quantities* of diluting liquors, they seldom are wanted in a *recent* complaint; as by causing so great a flow of urine, they serve to multiply the patient's sufferings, without abating his pain.

As this symptom in a *recent* gonorrhœa, is merely a local complaint, topical applications to the affected parts, are found to be most effectual to remove it; but the inefficacy of any preparation hitherto in use, has induced most practitioners, as well as their patients, to wish for some medicine, or some method, which would answer this desirable purpose, with greater certainty and expedition. The Author will therefore give some account of a preparation, he has used, and the methods he has pursued with uncommon success, which has been found to remove *immediately* this troublesome complaint, *without danger*, or *giving the least pain to the patient*; and which when combined, or used along with a proper
mercurial

mercurial injection, effectually cures a RECENT gonorrhœa in a few days; as many gentlemen at this time in London have experienced.

I will not attempt to explain *how* it acts so immediately upon the parts affected, but shall give some cases to elucidate its effects in the various symptoms of this disorder. At the same time, the Author wishes to have it understood, that what he has to advance on the efficacy of the preparation, in IMMEDIATELY relieving the ardor urinæ, is meant in RECENT gonorrhœas, and not in old cases.

A young man, twenty-two years of age, of a very delicate, though healthy habit of body, applied to me on the 17th of July 1777, for a *recent* clap, which was attended with great scalding on making water; the discharge was moderate. He began to use the preparation for the ardor urinæ, which *immediately* took away the heat of urine, and by injecting it night and morning, combined with a mild solution of mercury, he was perfectly cured, in ten days, without the use of any other medicine whatever, and continued perfectly well for ten months, when he contracted another

another gonorrhœa, and was cured by the same method of treatment.

It may not be improper to observe, that in every stage of this disorder, keeping the parts affected clean, by washing with milk and water of a *moderate* degree of heat, is very conducive to a speedy cure, as well as comfortable to the patient. Where a *costive habit* indicated the use of laxatives, I have always found the gentlest, the most efficacious: such as two drams of cathartic salt in an infusion of senna, or, what I have found preferable, in water impregnated with fixed air, and occasionally repeated.

In December 1777, a lady seven months gone with child, came to ask my advice for a disagreeable smarting, with difficulty in making water, attended with a discharge from the urethra. As her husband had been my patient some months before, I concluded it was venereal, without mentioning my suspicions to her. The vagina and vestibulum uteri were free from inflammation, but the orifice of the urethra looked red, and internally was so susceptible of pain, as not to permit the introduction of the smallest bougie. By the daily use of
water

water impregnated with fixed air, to each pint of which was added half a dram of the native fossile alkali, (nitrum vel natron antiquorum) the inflammation was abated, so as to suffer the use of mercurial injections *per urethram*, which took away her complaints in a few days, and they have not returned.

As we very frequently have patients, who have a virulent gonorrhœa that is *not* recent, it would be imprudent to trust to injections *alone*; and when attended with other symptoms of venereal infection, as chancres, bubo, &c. it then becomes necessary, at least prudent, to introduce a proper quantity of mercury into the system; but as it would be absurd to suppose, there can be one *invariable* method of using this powerful corrector of the venereal poison, it is necessary, that such measures should be pursued, as are best suited to the strength, age, sex and constitution of the patient, as well as to the state of the symptoms.

In a virulent gonorrhœa of long standing, *unattended* with any other local symptom of venereal infection. I have found mercury given internally, answer
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every purpose I could wish; but where a virulent discharge, is accompanied with a bubo, or swelled testicle from a venereal cause, greater benefit may be obtained from applying it externally in the form of uncti-
on, with proper mercurial injections.

In *strong plethoric* habits, where mercury is designed to enter the circulating system; previous to its use *in any form*, taking away a proper quantity of blood, is not only necessary, but will generally be found to make its operation *more safe* and effectual, and admit of this valuable specific being used with greater freedom; and where a costive habit prevails, or laxatives are required on any other account, two or three spoonfuls of the following mixture, given occasionally at bed time, I have found answer better than any other medicine,

℞. ol. ricini ℥iſs

Vitell. ovi parum,

Probe contritis in mortario, adde sensim

Aq. menth. simp.

— Cinnam. simp. an. ℥ii

Syrup. rosar. solutiv. ℥ſs. mis.

Where oily mixtures are disagreeable, the cathartic salt or soluble tartar in an infusion of senna may be given. But laxative medicines are very seldom required, where mercury is used internally, except the salivary glands should be much affected, which may generally be prevented by proper care.

In weak relaxed constitutions, where the fluids are in a more dissolved state, all evacuations previous to the use of mercury are not only unnecessary, but improper; in these cases, I have found it generally requisite to give the bark, and water impregnated with fixed air for common drink.

In whatever form mercury is used to subdue the venereal disease, whether taken inwardly, or externally applied, it must pass either through the lacteal, or the absorbent vessels on the surface of the body, before it can be received into the blood; and though we find many preparations of this specific, may, under proper management, be successfully employed in the cure of this disease, yet as some are better adapted to the various symptoms that occur,

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than others, it is therefore of great importance to attend to the separate *effects* and *operations* of particular preparations, in order to answer the different intentions of cure.

Among the various preparations of mercury, I have found none so safe or effectual in the cure of the venereal disease, as a solution of mercury, I have made, in which the crude quicksilver is suspended. Though it has proved singularly beneficial in the cure of this disorder, under its various forms and appearances, when exhibited internally, as well as when used by injection, yet I do not suppose or expect it infallible, and that in all patients, it will produce salutary effects, and never frustrate the hopes of the prescriber. Experience and observation has convinced me to the contrary; but evident proofs of its superior efficacy, in *safely* and *radically* subduing this disease, have induced me to prefer it, in most cases, to any other preparation. Its superior efficacy, may probably be owing to the perfect solution of the quicksilver, and the prodigious smallness of its mercurial parts, and in consequence
to

to its subtilty, whereby it penetrates the most minute vessels of the body, and diffuses itself through the whole system, circulating readily with the fluids. It may be given with the greatest safety in the most tender habits, so that those of delicate constitutions, need not be afraid of a salivation, or the pernicious effects so often produced by other preparations of mercury.

In very obstinate cases, when the venereal poison has been long in the habit, it has proved most efficacious, and has succeeded in the cure, after large quantities of mercury had been introduced into the system by inunction, without any material benefit; particularly where the venereal disease is attended with cutaneous eruptions, commonly called scorbutic, but which ought *carefully* to be distinguished from *real scorbutic* blotches.

March 18th 1777, E. G. about forty years of age, was recommended to my care, by a gentleman in town, for a painful inflammatory swelling, which reached from her knee to her ankle, with two deep sanious ulcers near the calf of her leg; on the other leg, there
 was

was a node on the shin bone, and a large swelling under the ham, with scabby eruptions on the head, among the roots of the hair; her pains were so great she could get little or no rest, had a continual headach, and sickness at her stomach. She had been ill two years, during which time, she was salivated in St. George's hospital, and afterwards, in the Westminster Infirmary. The preparation for the ardor urinæ was applied to the ulcers in her legs, which relieved her of the violent pain, and by taking a diet drink with the solution of mercury, she got well in six weeks, and remains well at this time.

I shall add an instance of the different effects of this medicine and mercurial unctions, after the latter had been used without any benefit, in an obstinate venereal case.

August 24th, 1778, I was desired to visit a gentlewoman in Westminster, near forty years of age, who had been ill five or six years of a venereal complaint, and was much emaciated; she had various ulcers on her forehead, lower jaw and shoulder, with a rigidity of her elbow, which was swelled and very painful, and her ham was

so contracted, that she could not walk across the room, without some assistance. She had also a violent cough attended with a shortness of breath.

August the 26th she begun the use of a diet drink, with the mercurial solution, and had proper medicines ordered for her cough, and asthmatic complaints: she applied the steam or vapour of a mixture of vinegar and honey to her elbow, and flexor tendons of the leg, with an embrocation prepared with the yolk of a raw egg, beat up with two ounces of water, which she used twice a day.

The ulcers discharged a foetid acrid matter, to which was applied, the mercurial solution diluted with water impregnated with fixed air.

September 5th, she walked near half a mile to my house, and was better in every respect. The same method of treatment was continued until the 29th, when she left off taking any medicines, the ulcers were completely healed, only the skin in the forehead remained a little tender; her ham and elbow perfectly recovered their flexibility, and, except her asthmatic complaints, she was perfectly well.

Several

Several surgeons who happened to be with me, saw these two Patients, when they came to be dressed; and though both of them were unable to walk without support for upwards of twelve months, they now can walk perfectly well. The neighbours, as also the patients, will certify these cases to any person who may wish to be further informed.

Previous to my attending the above patient, she had rubbed in large quantities of mercurial ointment at different times, and had also applied it to the ulcers, as I found on the dressings, when I first visited her.

I could give several cases to shew the efficacy of this preparation, where it was administered by other gentlemen of the profession, but at present, it is unnecessary, as the above sufficiently prove its salutary effects, in subduing some of the most inveterate symptoms of the venereal disease; and as it acts in the most gentle manner, it may be safely given, without occasioning the least inconvenience, to the most delicate patients, or requiring any alteration from the usual way of living, so as to give any one the least suspicion

suspicion of the nature of their complaint. It is therefore presumed, that on further trials, it will be found one of the most safe and efficacious mercurial preparations, hitherto discovered, and from its active and penetrating properties, equally applicable to eradicate this pernicious poison, either used by injection for a gonorrhœa, or when given internally, where the infection has got admittance into the general mass of fluids, and the whole habit is affected.

But the nature of this mineral is such, that the greatest care and circumspection is required, in whatever form it is used, particularly when administered to persons of weak lungs, or of a scorbutic habit of body, for should it be too liberally used, or too suddenly thrown into the habit, disagreeable consequences will often ensue, as it is well known, that the most powerful remedies produce the most fatal effects, *when used improperly* : and though it is a melancholy truth, yet it is too often experienced, that the patient suffers more from its imprudent use, than from the violence of the disease it was designed to remove. Therefore, as every powerful remedy is by the abuse of it, convertible

vertible into the most powerful poison, it is not in the least surprising, that so many persons of tender and delicate constitutions, suffer from the usual mode of treating this disease, when it is considered, that one *general* plan is indiscriminately, or at least with very little variation, pursued, in the treatment of people of all ages and constitutions. The most common, as well as the most fatal of these pernicious effects, are an affection of the lungs or consumption, and violent headachs. But such *must* be the fatal consequences, attending the practice, whenever the *disease* is prescribed to, and not the patient.

In June 1777, a young gentleman having got a slight venereal infection in the country, put himself under the care of an apothecary who had pursued this *general* plan of treatment, and gave him mercurial medicines at night, and a purge next morning, *constantly* for five weeks. Finding himself no better, but much reduced in his strength, he came to town for farther advice.

In July, when he applied to me, he had a great discharge from the urethra, which

did not shew much signs of venereal infection, except the being accompanied with a little heat of urine, for which he used proper injections.

His general health seemed to claim the greatest attention; he had a continual fever attended with a short dry cough, which generally increased after eating, with a flushing in his cheeks. The rest of his face was thin, and of a dirty fallow hue, with his eyes sunk in their sockets; his pulse was quick, particularly in the evenings, when it was also hard; he had a constant thirst; he frequently complained of a particular kind of heat and dryness in the palms of his hands and soles of his feet; he slept badly, and towards morning a cold clammy sweat broke out. In the day time he had frequent shiverings, *sometimes* succeeded by a hot fit, with other hectic symptoms, which seldom terminated in a sweat. This appeared to me, to be truly an incipient phthisis mercurialis, or *mercurial* consumption, induced by improper treatment of his venereal complaint. As the disease was not far advanced, his appetite and digestion were pretty good,
and

and since he had left off taking mercurial medicines, a diarrhœa, which had been perpetual, was much abated, I hoped from a well regulated diet and temperance, to afford him more relief than I expected from medicines.

His diet was directed to be chiefly milk and strawberries, and such ripe fruits as were then in season, abstaining *entirely* from animal food, wine and malt liquors. Morning and evening he drank water impregnated with fixed air, to which, one third part of milk, warm from the cow, was added. To abate the heat and thirst, which in the beginning were great, he took three times a day a scruple of purified nitre in a cup of coltsfoot-tea or barley-water sweetened with honey; in less than a fortnight his night sweats left him, his cough became trifling, and his pulse much slower and fuller, and not the least appearance of any venereal infection. Finding himself so much better, he inadvertently stayed out late one evening, and next day his cough returned with a pain in his side, for which a moderate quantity of blood was taken from his arm. He *now* persevered steadily in the use of
milk

milk and strawberries, with other ripe fruits, as his sole diet ; using for drink water impregnated with fixed air, to which was added the fossile alkali, in the proportion of a dram and a half to two quarts of the water. By continuing this regimen and diet for near six weeks, he recovered his health and colour, so as to be able to go into the country, where he took constant exercise on horseback ; and when I saw him about five months ago, he had no returns of his complaint, and was in perfect health.

As the use of the solution of mercury, has hitherto been confined to my own patients, and exhibited only by those gentlemen of the profession, to whom I had given it to ascertain its effects by tryal, I shall beg leave to offer some observations on those preparations of mercury in general use.

In obstinate venereal cases, where a large quantity of mercury is necessary to be introduced into the habit, the practice by unction has been considered, as the most useful and efficacious method of cure. Many advantages may be derived from its use in this form, if properly managed ; particularly

ticularly by this mode of using it, we avoid the disagreeable effects so frequently produced by its internal use, on the stomach and intestines.

The only inconvenience which I have observed from the use of the mercurial ointments, (as usually prepared) arises from the acrid nature of the substances with which the mercury is triturated. Every person I presume, who has been much conversant in venereal practice, must have remarked the disagreeable consequences which are frequently occasioned by the turpentine, with which the mercury is divided; from its acrid and irritating nature, it generally produces an erysipilatous inflammation, appearing in little angry pustles, on those parts where the ointment is applied; besides, from the viscid and clammy nature of the turpentine and balsam of sulphur, they seem ill adapted to penetrate the pores of the skin, and to be taken up by the absorbent vessels.

The mucilage of gum arabic seems also improper for dividing the mercurial globules, when intended for *external* use.

Sometimes it is prepared with lard alone, which certainly is a more eligible method, .
but

but from the great difficulty in perfectly extinguishing the mercury, it is liable to great uncertainty in its effects, as its activity will depend on the degree of triture employed in preparing it.

To obviate these objections to the unguent. cærul. fort. (as it is usually made) I take the liberty to recommend a method of preparing it, which I have found from experience, to be *mild, penetrating, and efficacious*; and as the substance employed in the place of the turpentine, divides the mercury with very little trouble, and in much less time, I hope the following form will merit the attention of those gentlemen, who may have occasion to use this valuable, though untractable mineral, by way of inunction.

R. Hydrargyri ʒi

Axung. porcin. ʒvi

Adipis anseris purificat ʒii

Adeps cum hydrargyro intimè teratur,

Dein adde axung. porcin. et bene misceantur.

Where

Where mercury is to be exhibited internally, I have found no preparation more efficacious, than the precipitate of calomel, as directed by Dr. Saunders. But as it is with some difficulty suspended in a fluid, it may in most cases answer better if given in a pill.

As I have always remarked, that the venereal disorder is cured with the greatest certainty, and in the least time, where the mercury occasions no apparent increase of evacuation by the intestinal tube, and where a gentle moisture on the skin is produced, I have generally given this preparation with the pill *à styrace* and camphor. But in some constitutions, mercurials, how much soever the complaints may seem to demand them, are found to produce very disagreeable effects when internally exhibited; these circumstances, which cannot always be foreseen, ought carefully to be attended to, for in such cases, if we obstinately persist in their internal use; we shall be so far from relieving the patient, that we shall not only render the disease worse, but materially injure the constitution.

Where

Where mercury occasions unusual spasmodic affections in the stomach and intestines, and its internal use is deemed necessary, if it be combined with opium and ipecacuanha, these disagreeable consequences will be prevented, without diminishing its efficacy.

In scrophulous, as well as scorbutic habits, the general health of the patient must be particularly attended to. As the former disease, *perhaps*, originates more from a faulty absorption, than from any constitutional or hereditary taint in the blood, as is generally supposed, we must not therefore think to rectify this remote cause (which may in some cases be attributed to a malconformation of the solids) by purging and evacuating these imaginary gross humours, by which treatment we weaken the patient, who is already in too relaxed a state ; but endeavour to assist nature, in enabling her to perform the due secretions, by strengthening the general habit, with tonic medicines, good air, and moderate exercise, at the same time that we destroy or render inactive the venereal poison, by mild mercurial preparations.

There-

Therefore, where scrophulous complaints are known, from glandular swellings in the neck or other parts, mercury should be used with the greatest circumspection, as by its imprudent exhibition, we should not only be disappointed in curing the venereal complaint, but be liable to render the original disease more certainly destructive.

When the glands are painful and inflamed, no preparation of mercury should on any account be used, but what is very mild ; at the same time the swellings should be carefully defended from the cold air ; the bowels should be render'd laxative, and the pores kept open by mild, diluting nitrous drinks.

In habits, tainted with a *real scorbutic* leaven, as where the gums are putrid, with blue or black spots, and eruptions on the body, which generally first appear on the outside of the arms, from the wrist to the shoulders, or sometimes on the legs and thighs, mercury should be cautiously administered, as it is observed, that a very small quantity will induce a dangerous salivation in scorbutic patients, and is often followed by a diarrhœa or dysentery,

which being stopped, the salivation returns. May not this, in some degree, be attributed to the bibulous disposition of the lacteals and lymphatic vessels, and perhaps from some peculiarity in the texture of the glands?

In these cases, where a true scorbutic diathesis exists, *previous* to a mercurial course, vegetable acids, with proper regimen, and keeping up the secretion by the skin and urinary passage, will generally be requisite. Therefore the liberal and constant use of oranges, lemons, and other fruits, with whey made by acescent juices or crem. of tartar, and a vegetable diet, must be rigidly adhered to, if we expect to derive any benefit from mercury, in the cure of venereal complaints, complicated with the scurvy. Where I found such manifest signs of a putrid habit, joined with a venereal complaint, after a proper vegetable diet had been pursued, I had the most convincing proofs of the superior efficacy of the mercurial solution, particularly when given with a decoction or infusion of the peruvian bark, which I thought, in these cases, improved its salutary effects, by being
power-

powerfully antiseptic, and preventing^{ed} that putrid disposition which mercury generally occasions.

It may not be unnecessary to observe, that the morbid matter or fault in the blood which produces the *true* scurvy, is different from that kind of humour, which is commonly, though improperly, called scorbutic; and which, when thrown out on the skin, appears in the form of tetters and scurfy eruptions.

Although the true scurvy is most frequently observed to attack those who have been long at sea, and soldiers encamped in low marshy places, yet there are few constitutions in England, entirely free from some degree of scorbutic taint, as appears from their spongy gums and other complaints; I shall therefore beg leave to relate a method of treatment, which by varying as symptoms may require, I have found very successful in a great number of patients, afflicted with this native endemial disorder, together with a venereal complaint.

In July 1777, J. C. applied to me for a venereal disorder, which he had contracted

tracted about seven weeks before ; he never had any discharge from the urethra, nor heat of urine, or any other symptom, to induce him to imagine he had got the infection, until about a week before he applied to me, when he felt a soreness, at the end of the penis, where there was a little ulcer, with a swelling in the groin.

On examination, I found the inguinal gland swelled, and a chancre at the superior part of the orifice of the urethra, with the glans in that part very hard.

He was a stout young man, but had that pasty complexion which denotes the general health to be affected. Perceiving his breath very offensive, I suspected he had been taking mercury, which he denied. On looking into his mouth, I observed his gums spongy, of a dark livid colour, and bleeding on the slightest touch. His arms were covered with small purple spots, like flea bites, which he said itched much in cold weather ; his hams, wrists, and the spaces betwixt his fingers, were quite clean and no ways affected. He had a pain across his breast,

was

was often out of breath when he walked fast, and had pains in his legs and thighs, with great lassitude ; he was also very low and dejected.

As he had caught a violent cold, attended with acute pain in his breast, and a cough, I took away a few ounces of blood, which was in a very dissolved state, and the serum like thick whey, which afforded him no relief.

As no doubt remained of a scorbutic taint, added to his venereal disorder, he was ordered a vegetable diet ; to abstain from all animal food, and spirituous liquors, and to take milk for his principal support ; to drink whey made with the juices of sorrel and Seville oranges, and when costive, to add from ʒii to ʒi of sal. polycrest, to each pint of whey. This addition was seldom required, as his body was kept sufficiently lax, by the whey and vegetable diet ; and at the same time, a gentle perspiration was kept up, by a little wine added to the whey at bed time, and a flannel waistcoat wore next his skin.

He washed his mouth frequently with an astringent and antiseptic gargle, which took
off

off the forenefs, and reftored the gums to a found ftate in a few days. By uſing a proper injection, a diſcharge from the urethra came on, which continued about a week.

This antiſcorbutic plan being regularly perſeuered in for a fortnight, and proper applications uſed to the chancre, it healed, the glans became ſoft, and the bubo remained about the ſame ſize, as when he began. He was got much better as to his general health, and the itching on his arms was gone.

He then entered on a courſe of diet drink with the ſolution of mercury, to every quart of which, was added eight ounces of a ſtrong decoction of Peruvian bark, ſtill continuing his former regimen; by which means the bubo was diſperſed, and he got well in leſs than three weeks, and remains free at this time of his ſcorbutic, as well as his venereal complaints.

Another patient, whoſe ſcorbutic ſymptoms were nearly ſimilar to the above, but whoſe venereal complaints were of a much longer ſtanding, attended with a great diſcharge, was cured by following the ſame
anti-

antiscorbutic method of treatment, with proper mercurial injections, and the use of the following pills, prepared by rubbing the precipitate of calomel in distilled vinegar till perfectly united, to which was added manna, and the whole rubbed on a marble slab, and passed through a sieve to separate the impurities of the manna; to each ounce of the above mass, was added.

Ext. cort. peruv. moll

pulv. myrrhæ, $\overline{\text{an}}$ ʒii

It was then formed into pills of a moderate size, to be given as the symptoms of the disease, and constitution of the patient required.

S E C T I O N VI.

Of the Hernia humoralis and swelled Testicle.

A swelling or enlargement of the testicles, may arise from various causes. When it is occasioned by a venereal infection, or takes place in consequence of a critical termination of some disease in the habit, it is called hernia humoralis

When this disease happens in a virulent gonorrhœa, it is an inflammatory defluxion produced by a preternatural irritation on
the

the mucous membrane of the urethra, in those parts adjacent to the bladder, where the *vesiculæ seminales* terminate.

This species of swelling is particularly painful, owing to the great sensibility of the part chiefly affected, viz. the *tunica albuginea*; from the firm compact texture of this membrane, and its close adhesion to the body of the testicle, it is with great difficulty distended, which occasions intolerable pain.

Sometimes, the swelling arises from a latent venereal taint in the habit, independent of a gonorrhœa, or any disease in the urethra; in this case, the distension is more gradual, consequently not so painful, and the tumour feels hard and indolent.

It may also happen, either from the use of bougies, improperly used, or from the escharotic ingredients, with which they are made, irritating the parts near the neck of the bladder.

Sometimes it is occasioned by strong drastic purges; also from cold, the effects of hard drinking or violent exercise; but most frequently it happens by the improper treatment of a gonorrhœa.

It is also liable to swell from external injuries, as a blow or bruise, and other causes, where there is no venereal infection; but all these, may easily be distinguished by a careful examination.

The different occasional causes must determine, what method of treatment is proper to pursue.

When it proceeds from the effects of a virulent gonorrhœa, the antiphlogistic method is generally necessary; if it originates from an old latent venereal taint, evacuations, &c. only become necessary, as particular symptoms may indicate.

When it arises from an inflammatory defluxion, it is immediately necessary to suspend the scrotum in a proper suspensory truss, and where no particular symptoms forbid it, to take away as much blood, *at first*, as the patient can conveniently bear; which often renders a repetition unnecessary. To empty the intestinal tube, by emollient laxative glysters, and foment the groin and scrotum with a warm anodyne foment, covering the whole with a large poultice. If the pain still continues violent,

an anodyne glyster will generally afford relief

After sufficient evacuations, I have found no method, which affords such speedy and permanent relief, as giving antimonials joined with opiates, so as to promote a plentiful perspiration, which should be kept up at least twenty four hours, by drinking plentifully of warm diluting liquors; if the perspiration is likely to flag, the saline draughts may occasionally be given.

A young gentleman, from the country, of a strong athletic make and good constitution, applied to me in May 1776, for a swelling in his left testicle, with an acute pain darting down from his groin. He told me he had contracted a gonorrhœa about three months before, attended with a copious discharge, which had been stopped by injections of aq. saturnina, and some few doses of calomel had been given; after that time, he perceived no symptoms of venereal infection, until his testicle swelled, which was now so painful, as to admit of a very slight examination. However, as no external injury
had

had befallen the part, nor any febrile disorder preceded the complaint, I had no doubt of its being venereal; particularly, from the method of treatment that had been pursued, in the preceding gonorrhœa.

I took away twenty ounces of blood, and applied a suspensory truss; as he came to reside at my house during the cure, he lay down upon the bed for about an hour, when a violent sickness and vomiting came on, which was encouraged by drinking warm chamomile tea. The swelling of the testicle increased, the pain became more severe, and extended up to the groin. An emollient laxative glyster was administered, which was repeated in an hour, and as it had no effect, after waiting some time, a few grains of calomel were given, with a draught prepared with castor oil, which produced the desired effect. The scrotum and groin were fomented with an anodyne decoction, and the whole covered with a large poultice of lintseed meal. Though he had found relief from the loose stools, yet he continued restless in bed the whole evening, and the pain became as severe as before. An emulsion with castor oil, was
given

given by spoonfuls, every half-hour, to which was added, five drops of tinct. thebaica. About twelve at night, his attendant came to acquaint me, he was very restless, and desired to get up. I found him very hot, and at times delirious, with subfultus tendinum. An anodyne glyster was administered, his legs were put into warm water, and the following emulsion was ordered.

R. Julep e camphor. uncias sex,
 Aq. cinnamon. simp. uncias duas,
 Syr. e meconio drachmas tres.
 Cujus sumat cochl. duo subinde in languoribus.

He seemed more composed, and one of the following pills was given.

R. Tart. emet. grana quatuor,
 Extract. thebaic. grana tres. m.
 Pro pilul. duabus.

He was ordered to drink plentifully of the following mixture.

R.

R. Aq. hordeat. libras sex,
 Mel. uncias quatuor,
 Aceti vinos. uncias tres,
 Nitri drachmas duas m.

He fell asleep in about half an hour after taking the pill, when a plentiful sweat broke out, which continued until near eight o'clock in the morning, when the other pill was given, and he drank freely of the nitrous mixture. His pain was much abated, and his pulse soft and regular. Throughout the day, he took frequently of the mixture, and a free perspiration continued until next morning. He got up about noon, free from pain, the swelling much abated, with a small discharge from the urethra. He wore a suspensory truss about a fortnight, when, by the moderate use of the solution of mercury, he was perfectly freed from all his complaints, only the epididymis remained hard, but not painful.

But when the swelling proceeds from a latent venereal taint in the habit, though not attended with such acute pain, yet it is generally longer before a radical cure can be effected.

effected. In plethoric habits, moderate evacuations may be necessary, previous to the use of mercury, which, in this case, may be rubbed in liberally; at the same time that the bark is given. When it is attended with great pain, I have always found speedy relief from the pill of opium and antimony, with the camphorated emulsion, given as in the preceding case. If practicable, a discharge from the urethra, should be brought on, which has always a good effect, in producing a radical cure. In these cases, a *sufficient* quantity of mercury should be used, otherwise, an effectual cure cannot be expected. The decoction of sarsaparilla may be given with advantage, and should be continued for some time after the swelling is reduced.

A waiter at a tavern in town, who, from his own account, had for some years been seldom free from a venereal complaint, applied to me for a swelled testicle, which was attended with very little pain: he told me, that he had taken, and injected, the balsam of copaiva for a clap, which he had contracted about two months before, which stopped the running in a few days, and he thought

thought himself cured. I attempted to bring on the discharge, by a suitable injection ; but as it was not so soon accomplished, as he wished, he contrived to get a fresh infection, which had the desired effect. By promoting the discharge for about a fortnight, and rubbing in the mercurial ointment on the scrotum and thighs, with the constant use of a suspensory truss, the testicle was reduced to its natural size ; and he was cured of his gonorrhœa in a few days, by proper mercurial injections.

The above case, with the *method* he took to bring on the running, is related, only to shew the pernicious consequences of stopping the discharge, in a virulent gonorrhœa, *before* the venereal virus is subdued by mercury ; and also to demonstrate the speedy relief obtained from its reproduction, whereby the tumor of the scrotum gradually subsided.

SECTION VII.

Of Buboes.

THE venereal Bubo *generally* happens in a *recent* disease, and is occasioned by the acrimony of the infected lymph, which, by its stimulus, affects the inguinal glands, through which it should pass. But it *sometimes* arises from the whole habit being infected.

Though frequently many weeks elapse, after the infection is received, before this swelling makes its appearance, yet that is not sufficient to determine, whether it arises from a confirmed lues or pox, without other concomitant symptoms, indicating, that the whole mass of fluids are infected.

The most frequent cause of a venereal bubo, arises from an improper method of treating the virulent gonorrhœa; as when the morbid discharge is prematurely suppressed; or from the use of irritating applications, where those symptoms of venereal infection appear, such as chancres on the glans, and præpuce, *without* any running. It may also be produced, by the indis-

cretion

cretion of the patient, by cold, too much exercise, or intemperance.

Buboes have been distinguished by some authors, into three kinds; the inflammatory, the œdematous, and the schirrous. This difference in their appearance, seems as much to depend on the patients habit of body, as the nature of the venereal poison. The length of time before any swelling is perceived in the groin, may probably depend on the different degrees of malignity of the venereal virus; as well as on the method of treatment pursued for its cure. Having frequently observed, that when the running in a gonorrhœa has been prematurely suppressed, and mercury too *freely* administered at the same time, a bubo is generally the consequence. It may be no improper hint to those who are inclined to use astringent injections, in a recent infection, to be cautious how they give mercury, or strong heating medicines, while such injections are employed.

It has been observed, that the poison, which is communicated by the bite of a mad dog, has remained inactive many months, and sometimes a much longer
M time,

time, before it has shewn any symptoms of malignity, which has been attributed to want of sufficient stimulus in the poison, to excite absorption; may we not ascribe to the same cause, a similar effect, in the case of a venereal bubo? But as the *particular* manner in which the venereal virus acts, is imperfectly understood, we may be less solicitous about its *particular* mode of affecting the parts, so long as we know the effect it produces, and how to subdue them.

As a swelling in the groin may proceed from *other* causes, that are not venereal, it is very necessary to be *certain*, whether it is occasioned by *venereal infection*, or not, before we undertake its treatment.

The causes it may arise from, are,

1. A hernia inguinalis, or bubonocoele.
2. One of the testicles remaining in the groin.
3. A tumor formed by the absorption of acrid matter from an ulcer.
4. From an obstruction in the inguinal gland.
5. An aneurism of the crural artery.

1st. A hernia inguinalis is known from the form and position of the tumor, as it is

not

not a circumscribed or detached swelling, but is felt quite up to the ring of the abdominal muscles, where the spermatic vessels pass down from the belly, like a stalk; whereas one indication of its being venereal, is, the patient having venereal symptoms, as a gonorrhœa, chancres, &c. previous to the swelling; a stiffness or slight pain in the groin is generally felt a day or two before its appearance; it is also hard, and circumscribed. When recent, it is incompressible, and free from any connection with the spermatic process; and when it is in a state of suppuration, the difference between matter, and a piece of gut or cawl, is easily distinguished by the feel.

2d. When one of the testicles is detained in its way to the scrotum, it lies across the the groin; and on examination no testicle will be found in the scrotum on that side.

3d. Every ulcer situated in the lower extremities, which furnishes sharp acrid matter, *may* occasion inflammation and swelling of those glands, to which the lymphatics lead. When it is produced by the acrid discharge of an ulcer in the lower
extre-

extremities, the *inferior* glands in the groin are most commonly affected; but when venereal, the *superior* ones become enlarged.

4th. The lymph sometimes accumulates from an obstruction in the inguinal glands, and gives the appearance of a venereal bubo. This may proceed from the visciditv of the lymph, as well as from some of the ducts or vessels which compose the gland, being obliterated from preceding inflammation. In this case, the limb below becomes œdematous; and if from distension the gland bursts, the discharge is *lymph*, not *matter*. In this case, some of the lymphatic vessels will frequently dilate and carry it off, especially if assisted by dry friction of the parts, as varied motion is found to have particular influence on the glandular system.

5th. An aneurism of the crural artery is easily distinguished, by applying the finger to the swelling, where a considerable pulsation is felt. As a mistake of this kind is said to have happened in this metropolis, this caution is the rather necessary, as an incision (through mistake) would be attended with the most fatal consequences.

It has already been observed, that the lymphatic vessels *sometimes pass* the inguinal glands, *without entering them*; though it is rare and uncommon, yet it shews the *possibility* of the infection being carried into the system, *without* the gland in the groin being affected. Therefore the general rule, that the inguinal glands are *always* affected, so as to give sufficient previous notice of the infection pushing its way into the habit, must be cautiously received.

With regard to the method of cure, practitioners differ in opinion, whether it is better to disperse, or bring the tumor to suppuration. This must be determined by circumstances.

When a venereal bubo appears soon after the infection is received, attended with a discharge from the urethra, I have frequently experienced, that it may be dispersed with the greatest safety, provided proper methods are taken to secure the general mass of fluids from infection.

But when it arises, without any other symptom of venereal infection, or is not accompanied with a discharge from the urethra, it will be more prudent to attempt

a suppuration, and evacuate the contents of the bubo.

I know, it is the opinion of some eminent practitioners, that when a venereal bubo is brought to suppuration, and opened at a proper time, that the venereal poison is *entirely* evacuated, together with the contents of the bubo; but if a mercurial course is not pursued at the same time, this opinion may be productive of disagreeable consequences. I must assure my readers, that within these six months, three persons found it necessary to apply to me for want of proper care having been taken to secure the habit, *after* the bubo *had been opened*, and its contents discharged. It is true, that in one of the three this might be owing to the want of a sufficient discharge.

When we have reason to suppose the complaint is local, and mean to disperse the tumor, if attended with a running it should by no means be suppressed; and if the patient is of a plethoric habit,

habit, or the swelling is painful, bleeding should be directed early and liberally; and when the habit is bad, recourse must be had to such evacuations, as particular symptoms may require; in general, the mildest laxatives will be found to answer best, which should be repeated occasionally, until the pain and other inflammatory symptoms are abated. Where there is no discharge from the urethra, or it has been prematurely suppressed, these evacuations should be freely made, and frequently repeated, together with nitre, and plentiful dilution. If the patient is desirous to expedite the cure, and prevent the formation of matter in the gland, besides the use of antiphlogistic remedies, a strict observance of low diet and regimen, are indispensably requisite, as well as to abstain from all kinds of exercise. Should the pain in the groin be very severe, I have observed very speedy relief obtained by the application of leaches.

When the swelling and pain are in some measure abated, we must have recourse to mercurials, which should be used freely,

so as to subdue the venereal poison, in the most speedy and effectual manner.

In a variety of these cases, I have found no method answer so well, as inunction, by rubbing the ointment on those parts of the thighs, where the superficial lymphatics pass before they enter the inguinal glands.

It does not appear a circumstance of the consequence generally supposed, that the ointment should be applied to *particular* parts of the legs and thighs, since the lymphatics are universally diffused over the surface of the body. Inoculation illustrates this fact, for to whatever part the matter is applied, the absorbent vessels take it up and convey it into the blood.

Inunction is generally directed in the evenings; for what reason, I am at a loss to determine, for, absorption is stronger in the morning, not from inanition, but because the body has been recruited during rest.

On the supposition that mercury subdues the venereal disease, by coming in immediate contact with the infection; may not the method of treating local complaints by inunction

unction, where mercury is applied more *immediately* to the affected part, be found more effectual on that account? by such means it is not liable to undergo any changes, whereby it might be deprived of its specific power, which may probably in some degree, be diminished in the long round of circulation, when inwardly administered. The advantages obtained from its external use in *certain local* venereal complaints, will appear obvious, when it is considered, that if it is administered internally, it is first taken up by the lacteals in the intestines, whose orifices are so small, as to be imperceptible to the naked eye. It is carried to the mesenteric glands, and from thence to the loins, where it mixes with the lymph, which comes from the lower extremities and genitals, in one common trunk, called the thoracic duct, which receives the contents of the lacteals, and lymphatic vessels of the lower extremities and abdominal viscera; in this duct it is carried upwards, passing behind the ascending aorta, and terminating in the angle, (on the left side) between the jugular and subcla-

vian vein, near where the collar bone and first rib are inserted into the breast bone. *It is here, and not before,* where the mercury, internally taken, mixes with the blood, and then partly goes the round of circulation, before it gets to the affected gland in the groin. But notwithstanding this long course, repeated experience convinces us, that when such preparations as are adapted to the symptoms, are properly given by the mouth, the cure is both speedy and effectual. Certainly then, the more minutely the mercury is divided, the greater probability there is of its being carried with greater efficacy to those distant parts of the body; from which we may infer the superior efficacy of the mercurial solution before mentioned.

When a bubo appears some months after the infection is supposed to have been received, and is not attended with any discharge from the urethra, it is certainly prudent to bring the tumor to a suppuration, that we may more effectually eradicate the venereal poison, by evacuating the contents of the bubo. By this salutary drain, less mercury will be required to perfect a cure,
which

which may be used *internally*, in such quantities, as will, with proper regimen and diet, promote a complete and speedy suppuration.

In order to promote and quicken the maturation of the tumor, topical applications are generally found requisite: To answer this purpose, warm fomentations, with a poultice of bread and milk or lint-feed meal is generally sufficient. Whatever application is deemed proper to promote suppuration, should be applied as warm as can be endured, and removed as often as it becomes cold. But where secrecy may be necessary, or hot poultices not easily procured, I have found the following cataplasm answer as a good substitute, if the part is well fomented and kept warm by proper covering.

R. Mel ℥iij

Ung. gum. elemi ℥ij

Terebinth. venet. ℥ss bene miscan-
et adde

Farin. tritici q. s. ut. ft. cataplasm
emol.

This

This spread pretty thick on tow or linen rag, saves much trouble in making poultices, and is a good superficial dressing to promote a free discharge after the bubo is opened.

The suppuration being completed, which is known by the softness of the tumor and fluctuation of matter under the finger, it should be opened, rather than suffer it to burst of its own accord, as the aperture through which the discharge is made, is generally too small, and not often situated in the most dependent part.

Therefore care should be taken, that the opening be made sufficiently large, and also in a proper direction, so as to allow the matter to have a free exit. When the contents are sufficiently discharged, lint is the best application, as it answers every intention, and at the same time lies soft on the part without occasioning pain; it absorbs all superfluous moisture, and hastens the formation of pus, or that glutinous matter, in which the new vessels are explicated. Previous to each dressing, warm fomentations, will be found serviceable. At first over the lint may be applied

applied a pledgit of the digestive already mentioned. In order to cleanse the ulcer, it is a common practice to use detergent applications, such as precip. rub, alum. ust. &c. we are not to imagine, that ointments loaded with those escharotic ingredients will always dispose the parts to heal sooner, as generally speaking, nature is sufficient for this purpose, except in some very shattered constitutions, where the bark, with a proper diet, are chiefly to be depended on; and mercury should now be used, in such quantities, as to secure the constitution from the effects of any of the morbid fluid, which may have got admittance into the general circulating mass.

By these methods, we clear the habit of all infection, nor will it seem surprising that this discharge should rid the constitution of the venereal poison, when it is observed, that in the plague itself, a suppuration in the glands of the neck, arm pit, or groin, will prove a perfect crisis.

S E C T I O N VIII.

Of Chancres.

When chancres arise from a fresh venereal infection, they are generally seated on those parts, which have a thin and tender covering, as the glans penis, or inside of the præpuce near the corona glandis; but they particularly affect those parts, where there is any crack or excoriation. They appear at first, like small pimples, attended with itching, but soon degenerate into corroding ulcers. They are known to be venereal, from a slough at the bottom, of a yellowish white colour, and by having hard callous edges. When *recent*, they are not usually attended with difficulty in the cure, especially if they happen to persons of a healthy habit. Although these ulcers may in most cases be healed by external applications, yet it is never prudent to trust to them alone. When there is pain and inflammation, they often occasion a phymosis, which is more tedious
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in the cure, from the difficulty of applying proper applications.

On the 7th of June 1777, a gentleman applied to me for a painful swelling of the penis, which had prevented him getting any sleep for several nights. On examining the parts, I found the præpuce swelled to three times its natural size, and so closely contracted round the glans, that although there was a copious discharge, we could not distinguish from where it flowed, but from the pain it seemed to proceed from chancres which were under the præpuce on the corona glandis.

Notwithstanding he was bled plentifully, and gentle laxatives administered, with warm fomentations and emollient poultices; the pain and swelling continued for two days, nearly as bad as ever. He was ordered to bed, and anodynes were liberally given, which brought on a free perspiration, for twenty four hours, after which the swelling was much abated, and I was able to throw up an injection betwixt the glans and præpuce, which immediately abated the pain. By continuing the injections with warm fomentations and poultices, he was
able

able to draw back the præpuce, which discovered three deep, ill conditioned ulcers. By mild mercurial preparations, topically applied, with gentle laxatives, the chancres were healed, and the parts were reduced to their natural size, in less than a fortnight. He continued the use of a diet drink, with the mercurial solution, for six weeks longer, and got perfectly well. From the first time of using the preparation for the heat of urine, the pain entirely ceased, and never returned.

In women, when the infection is received by coition, these ulcers are situated on the inside the labia, and sometimes upon the clitoris and its covering or præpuce. I have remarked, that women are more liable than men to that species of venereal infection, which happens without a discharge. When it is a *primary* complaint, it is cured with as much ease, and certainty, as in the male subject; but mercurials should be used, either internally, or by unction, otherwise a radical cure cannot be expected.

A gentleman applied to me last summer, in behalf of a female friend, who had a
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small sore on the labia pudendi, attended with continual itching; he told me, there was no reason to suspect it proceeded from a venereal cause; however, I hinted to him my suspicions of its being a chancre. As he persisted in its not being venereal, I gave him proper medicines, with directions how to proceed. The parts apparently got well, but about two months after, he called to acquaint me, the complaint was returned with greater violence. I persuaded him to bring the lady to town, when I found they were venereal chancres. By the use of the preparation for the heat of urine, the pain and itching were immediately relieved, and by such mercurials as were adapted to the nature of her complaint, she was cured in a few weeks, and remains so at this time, which is about eight months since she applied to me.

It is observed by some eminent authors, who have wrote on this subject, that women are cured of venereal complaints, with greater difficulty than men; I have found it the reverse, except in some cases, where there were excrescences near the

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anus,

anus, which denote a confirmed taint in the habit of long standing. These were cured, by attending to the general health, whilst the venereal poison was subdued by mercurial medicines, previous to extirpation.

When chancres proceed from an universal taint in the habit, there is generally some other venereal symptom which accompanies them, or appears soon after; the most frequent are ulcers in the throat, and scurfy eruptions on the forehead or amongst the hair. The chancres in this case are not confined to the glans penis, or præpuce, but appear in different parts of the body, and are then called venereal ulcers. The difficulty of cure will be in proportion to the malignity of the disease, and inveteracy of the symptoms, as well as the patients habit of body. These ulcers may sometimes be healed, but never radically cured, until the venereal virus is entirely subdued by a thorough mercurial course, and proper internal remedies. Under these circumstances, I have found the continued use of sarsaparilla, with some proper preparation of the bark, generally

rally necessary whilst mercury is used. Where the blood is supposed to be affected with a scorbutic taint, if the antiscorbutic plan be pursued, the ulcers will heal more kindly.

I have directed the solution of corrosive sublimate, in a variety of venereal cases, but have observed it fail in many instances. In weak tender habits, it often occasions great pain in the stomach, which I have known return after the medicines had been left off many months.

I shall give an instance, where the solution of mercury produced a perfect cure, after the sublimate solution had been tried to no purpose.

A gentleman, who some years ago had taken mercurials in large quantities, by imprudently riding out in bad weather got wet, although he perceived no immediate bad effects ; yet some months after his hands became hard and scurfy. Having frequently observed the good effects of the sublimate solution in those cases, where the disorder seemed to proceed from perspiration being obstructed, he began to take
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the decoction of farfaparilla with the sublimate, which he continued for several weeks, without any apparent benefit.

He applied to me again in the spring for the same complaint, attended with the loss of appetite; when he begun the use of a diet drink with the solution of mercury, his hands in a little time became soft and smooth, he became fat and hearty, and his appetite was as good as ever, after drinking a few bottles of his medicine. This he continues to take every now and then, as he finds himself better in health, by its use.

S E C T I O N IX.

Of a Gleet.

When this follows a venereal disease, it is generally brought on by improper treatment of the preceding gonorrhœa, and frequently by the use of strong mercurial medicines and drastic purges; the immediate cause then is relaxation. It is also occasioned by intemperance and severe exercise,
and

and often occurs in patients of a scrophulous or scorbutic habit.

The method of treatment must be adapted to the cause that produced it.

If it be merely a local complaint in the urethra, it may be relieved by injections and the judicious use of bougies.

When it arises from relaxation and a debilitated habit, provided a proper mercurial course has been previously pursued, Peruvian bark with steel, will be found to answer in most cases.

When a gleet is occasioned by excessive coition, the bark with chalybeates will have the most salutary effects, no symptom contraindicating the exhibition of such tonic medicines, especially if a milk diet is strictly observed.

It should be remembered, that excess in venery will inevitably defeat every attempt to cure this complaint, therefore it ought to be avoided.

F I N I S.

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